

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

- 1-7 (Cancelled).
8. (Currently Amended) A roller cone drill bit, comprising:
- a bit body adapted to be coupled to a drill string, the bit body including at least one leg depending therefrom, the leg having a bearing journal thereon, the leg defining a shirrtail portion at an end thereof;
 - a roller cone having cutting elements thereon and rotatably affixed to the at least one bearing journal; and
 - a hardface coating applied to the shirrtail portion, the hardface coating applied by a high pressure/high velocity oxygen fuel torch, wherein the shirrtail portion is bounded at one end by a shirrtail tip and at the other end by a line passing trough a center of the bearing journal and perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the bit body.
9. (Original) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the hardface coating comprises tungsten carbide.
10. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the hardface coating has a thickness of about 0.1 to 0.6 mm.
11. (Original) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein a thickness of the hardface coating is approximately 0.25 to 0.28 mm.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8 wherein the hardface coating is applied after assembly of at least one roller cone to the bit body.

14. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, the bit body including three legs depending therefrom.
15. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, wherein the hardface coating comprises a material that increases a wear resistance of a material of the shirrtail portion to which the hardface coating is applied.
16. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, wherein the hardface coating comprises a metal carbide.
17. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 16, the metal carbide comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of vanadium, chromium, and titanium.
18. (Previously Presented) The roller cone drill bit as defined in claim 8, the cutting elements comprising at least one selected from the group consisting of hard metal inserts, composite inserts, and milled steel teeth.